

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 01098 132015Z

63

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01

TRSE-00 COME-00 DRC-01 /187 W

----- 114609

R 121500Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1690

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1098

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR MR

SUBJ: IMPROVED FRENCH-MAURITANIAN TIES --DENIAU VISIT

SUMMARY: VISIT HERE BY GOF SECSTATE FONAFFAIRS (COOPERATION) HAS HELPED TAKE YEAR-LONG CHILL OFF FRENCH-MAURITANIAN RELATIONS.

1. NOV 1-3 VISIT TO MAURITANIA BY JEAN-FRANCOIS DENIAU HAS WARMED PARIS-NOUAKCHOTT RELATIONS, ACCORDING TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR GAUTHIER WHO REVIEWED WITH ME GENESIS AND RESULTS OF DENIAU VISIT. GAUTHIER, SAID HE HAD RECOMMENDED VISIT AS WAY TO END UNCOMFORTABLE STALEMATE IN BILATERAL TIES WHICH NEITHER SIDE WISHED SEE CONTINUE. NOTED PARIS HAD DECIDED IT WAS READY TO UNBLOCK CERTAIN AID PROJECTS STUCK IN PIPELINE FOR PAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS. WHILE GIRL WAS INTERESTED IN RESUMING AID RELATIONSHIP IT HAD BEEN RELUCTANT TO INITIATE ANY AID REQUESTS FOR FEAR OF BEING REBUFFED. DENIAU'S VISIT WAS INITIALLY BILLED AS PRIVATE, I.E. AS DENIAU'S RETURN TO CAPITAL WHERE HE HAD ONCE SERVED AS AMBASSADOR. VISIT QUICKLY ASSUMED, HOWEVER, ALL TRAPPINGS OF OFFICIAL VISIT INCLUD-

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 01098 132015Z

ING EXTENDED MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH

AND PRINCIPAL CABINET MEMBERS.

2. AFTER TAKING HIS OWN READING OF POLITICAL CLIMATE DENIAU ADVISED MAURITANIANS THAT FRANCE WAS PREPARED TO SIGN AGREEMENTS IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS TOTALLING SOME DOLS 2.3 MILLION. ALL WERE PROJECTS WHICH HAD BEEN TENTATIVELY APPROVED PRIOR TO JUNE 1972 WHEN GIRM ANNOUNCED DECISION TO SEEK REVISION OF FRANCO-MAURITANIAN ACCORDS.

3. ACCORDING GAUTHIER, DENIAU VISIT ENCOURAGED GIRM TO TABLE SEVERAL NEW AID REQUESTS. THESE INCLUDED CONSTRUCTION OF BOUTILIMIT-KIFFA PORTION OF NOUAKCHOTT-NEMA CROSS-COUNTRY HIGHWAY, ON WHICH FAC HAS ALREADY DONE ENGINEERING DESIGN. ALSO PROMINENT ON SHOPPING LIST IS OULD DADDAH'S PET PROJECT OF MEAT PACKING PLANT AND TANNERY FOR AIOUN, CAPITAL OF SECOND REGION. DENIAU RESPONDED IN ALL CASES THAT HE COULD MAKE NO COMMITMENT OTHER THAN "TO AGREE TO STUDY". (IN THIS COUNTRY SUCH AN ANSWER IS ROUTINELY AND OFTEN ERRONEOUSLY TAKEN AS INDICATING HIGH INTEREST). GAUTHIER COMMENTED ONLY THAT NO EARLY DECISIONS LIKELY, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE SEVERAL NEW REQUESTED PROJECTS SEEM NOT YET FULLY COORDINATED WITHIN GIRM. AS A FIRST STEP LOCAL FAC MISSION DIRECTOR WILL BE CONSULTING WITH CABINET MINISTERS CONCERNED DURING COMING WEEKS TO ESTABLISH GIRM'S PRIORITY NEEDS.

4. COMMENT: EXTENDED PERIOD OF 1972 NEGOTIATIONS ON ACCORDS LEFT BRUISED FEELING IN BOTH CAPITALS. MALAISE PERSISTED AFTER SIGNATURE OF NEW ACCORDS IN FEBRUARY AS WITNESSED BY GIRM'S STRIPPING FRENCH AMBASSADOR OF DEANSHIP DIPLOMATIC CORPS ONE MONTH BEFORE HIS SCHEDULED DEPARTURE LAST MARCH. PARI DELAYED NAMING NEW AMBASSADOR FOR SIX MONTHS TO UNDERLINE ITS DISPLEASURE AND VARIOUS FRENCH OFFICIALS HERE LAST SPRING FREELY COMMENTED THAT MEURITANIA MUST BE TAUGHT LESSON IN WAY WHICH WOULD DISCOURAGE OTHERS FROM FOLLOWING IT OUT OF FRANC ZONE. AS ITS PRINCIPAL SANCTION PARIS CHOSE TO FREEZE AID RELATIONS, OR, AS IT WAS DELICATELY PHRASED, TO PUT MAURITANIA ON "CLASSIC" BASIS AS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NOUAKC 01098 132015Z

AID RECIPIENT WHOSE REQUESTS WOULD BE REVIEWED ON "CASE BY CASE BASIS".

5. KNOWLEDGABLE MAURITANIANS ARE SCEPTICAL THAT DENIAU'S VISIT WILL MARK RETURN OF FRANCO-MAURITANIAN AID RELATIONS TO THEIR STATUS QUO ANTE. HOWEVER, GIRM UNIFORMLY WELCOMES DENIAU'S DECISION TO UNBLOCK AID PROJECTS AS DEFINITE INDICATION THAT RELATIONS, BOTH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL, SHOULD VISIBLY IMPROVE

OVER THEIR NADIR OF LAST MARCH. THIS PAST YEAR OF ESTRANGEMENT FROM FRANCE HAS CAUSED SOME DISCOMFORT TO GIRM, DESPITE FACT IT WAS IT'S BRUSK DEMAND FOR ACCORDS REVISION WHICH LED DIRECTLY TO THE SUBSEQUENT FRICTIONS.

6. FOR THEIR PART, THE FRENCH HAVE FOUND TEACHING MAURITANIA A LESSON NOT SO EASY AS THEY MAY HAVE ANTICIPATED. IN ADVANCE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ACCORDS GIRM'S LEADERSHIP HAD KNIT TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT WITH OTHER POTENTIAL DONORS, PARTICULARLY THE OIL RICH ARABS. (THIS SOURCE OF FINANCING REMAINS LARGEY POTENTIAL; THERE HAVE BEEN MORE ARAB PROMISES THAN ACTIONS TO DATE IN FINANCING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HERE).

HOWEVER, GIVEN NOUAKCHOTT'S LIMITED ADMINISTRATIVE ABILITY TO ABSORB FOREIGN AID AND PROBABLE FRENCH DESIRE TO IMPROVE AID RELATIONS BUT NOT AT FORMER LEVEL, FRANCE WILL NOT FIND A MORE FORTHCOMING RELATIONSHIP UNDULY EXPENSIVE. FRANCE SHOULD BE ABLE TO RECREATE THE APPEARANCE, AND SOME SUBSTANCE, OF HELPFULNESS WITHOUT INVESTING SIGNIFICANT SUMS. THE CRUSTY OUTLOOK OF LOCAL FAC REPRESENTATIVES MAY ALSO SLOW DOWN DEVELOPMENT OF ANY NEW FRENCH AID PROGRAM.

MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMITY, CONSTRUCTION, MINISTERIAL VISITS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, HIGHWAYS, MEATS, PACKAGING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NOUAKC01098
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731140/aaaabcyk.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by smithrj>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMPROVED FRENCH-MAURITANIAN TIES --DENIAU VISIT SUMMARY: VISIT HERE BY GOF SECSTATE FONAFFAIRS (COOPERATION)
TAGS: PFOR, FR, MR, (DENIAU, JEAN-FRANCOIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005